

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
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R 171501Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8418
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION SINAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 13682

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG US IS XF
SUBJ: PRESS AUGUST 17: MIDDLE EAST GRAB BAG

1. MIDDLE EAST AND PEACE PROCESS COVERAGE AUGUST 17 REFLECTED THAT SADAT ON VACATION AND LITTLE DIRECT EGYPTIAN ACTIVITY TAKING PLACE.

2. ISRAELI EQUALIZATION MEASURES. ARAB LEAGUE SYG CALLED ON ARAB AMBASSADOR AT UN TO HOLD URGENT CONSULTATIONS ON ISRAEL'S "DECISION TO APPLY ISRAELI LAW TO WEST BANK AND GAZA". PRESS EXPECTS THAT AMBS WILL REQUEST SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION TO EXAMINE SITUATION, BASED ON WELL PUBLICIZED FEARS THAT ISRAEL MOVING TO ANNEX TWO TERRITORIES. ALTERNATIVE MOVE WOULD BE REFERRAL OF QUESTION TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SEPTEMBER. (COMMENT: CONFIDENTIAL

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AL SOURCE TELLS US DECISION TO BE TAKEN IN CONSULTATION WITH USDEL). PRESS NOTES PRESIDENT CARTER HAS SENT MESSAGE TO BEGIN, CITING OBSERVERS IN JERUSALEM FOR VIEW THAT IT DEALS WITH "DECISION TO APPLY ISRAELI LAW TO WEST BANK AND GAZA."

3. AL ALSO TO CONSIDER FORMATION OF PERMANENT ARAB

SECURITY FORCE FOR RED SEA SECURITY (SEPTTEL).

4. SOUTH LEBANON . ARAFAT HAS SENT MESSAGE TO ARAB LEAGUE SYG RIAD ASKING THAT "DETERIORATION SITUATION" IN SOUTH LEBANON BE INCLUDED ON AGENDA OF AL COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 3. (COMMENT: AL SOURCE PESSIMISTIC THAT ANYTHING CAN BE DONE TO TRANQUILIZE LEBANESE SITUATION EXCEPT IN CONTEXT PEACE PROCESS.)

5. PLO. SAID KAMAL, DEPUTY CHIEF OF PLO POLITICAL DEPARTMENT SATIONED IN CAIRO, VISITED FONMIN FAHMY AUGUST 16 TO DISCUSS " POSSIBILITY OF US-PLO DIALOGUE". ACCORDING PRESS, FAHMY SUBSEQUENTLY SENT MESSAGE TO ARAFAT. PAPERS REPORT ARAFAT WILL VISIT SOVIET UNION IN SEPTEMBER WITH HIGH POWERED DELEGATION. TALKS WILL DEAL WITH " MIDDLE EAST SITUATION IN LIGHT OF VANCE VISIT". PLO ATTACK ON BUS IN ISRAEL REPORTED WITH MORE PROMINENCE THAN HAS BEEN ACCORDED TO TERRORIST OPERATIONS FOR SOME TIME.

6. EDITORIALS. AHAM CONDEMNS ISRAEL'S "CONSPIRACY AGAINST LEBANON" LED BY " ASSASSIN OF ARABS OF DEIR YASSIN". CALLED ON LEBANESE TO ESCHEW SHAME OF COLLABORATION WITH ISRAEL AND ESPOUSE CONFESSIOAL COEXISTENCE. GUMHURIYYA COMMENTED IN SIMILAR VEIN, ADDING WARNINGS THAT ISRAEL MAY BE ABOUT TO OVERRUN SOUTH LEBANON. CONFIDENTIAL

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REMIND IT TO HEAD LESSONS OF OCTOBER WAR.

7. COMMENT: STIFFENING GOE LINE ON ISRAEL HAS EMERGED IN PRESS IN PAST DAYS. ALTHOUGH DESIGNED FOR ARAB AND PALESTINIAN CONSUMPTION, IT REFLECTS REAL CONCERN THAT ISRAEL HAS NO INTENTION OF MAKING ANY ACCOMMODATIONS TOWARD SETTLEMENT AND THAT EGYPT IS GOING TO BE LEFT HOLDING THE BAG. SAME MOTIVE PROBABLY ACCOUNTS FOR MEDIA'S CONTINUING EXPRESSIONS OF SATISFACTION WITH U.S. EFFORTS AND ATTEMPT TO SHOW MOVEMENT TOWARDS US-PLO DIALOGUE. EILTS

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